

Baker Sockeye Fisheries Fact Sheet

Background: WDFW held two public meetings during 2014-15 to receive input on the management of future Baker Sockeye fisheries. At the meetings, constituents were able to voice their opinions to fisheries managers on how WDFW could best meet the established conservation goals, as well as meeting the needs of anglers through management changes. At the conclusion of the meetings, attendees reached consensus on several key fishery regulations they would recommend to be implemented for future seasons. These recommendations include: season start/end dates, river harvest quotas, and daily limits. The details provided below serve as a starting place for the North of Falcon Baker sockeye discussions. We are still accepting public input on how to proceed with the Baker Sockeye fishing season and you are encouraged to submit any comments you may have, online at: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/northfalcon/.

1) 2016 Forecast

The 2016 Baker sockeye preseason forecast is for 55,054 sockeye. After setting aside the necessary fish for broodstock needs, natural spawning, and test fishing, approximately 22,000 harvestable fish remain in the state's half of the total harvestable share.

2) Season Start/End Dates and Bag Limits

At the end of the second Baker Sockeye workshop, the meeting attendees agreed upon the following regulations recommendations for Baker sockeye seasons:

Skagit River Fishery

River Share: 20% of state share

Season Dates: June 16 – July 15 or when the river fishery quota is reached

Daily limit: 3 fish

Requests to extend the area of the Skagit River fishery, depending on monitoring costs.

Baker Lake Fishery

Lake Share: 80% of state share

Season Dates: July 10 – Sept. 8

Daily limit: Runsize dependent (30,000 forecast = 3 fish; 40,000 = 4 fish; 50,000 = 5 fish; 60,000 = 6 fish);

Ability to update bag limits after run is updated from in-season update (ISU) model.

For a full summary of the notes and presentations from both Baker Sockeye Workshops please go to: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/sockeye/baker_river.html.